



# United States Department of the Interior

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## **An Explanation of McCain-related Correspondence Records**

All of the files are listed chronologically by date. The identifier at the end of the file name indicates if the correspondence was initiated by Senator McCain's office or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or if the document is for a Congressional Briefing.

Some of these records contain personally identifiable information that is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) at 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), herein referred to as "Exemption 6." Where such information has been removed from a document, the copy is marked with yellow highlight and the notation "Ex. 6" where such redactions have been made.

Exemption 6 permits an agency to withhold personal information about individuals when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. When appropriate and subject to a case-by-case analysis, this exemption allows BLM to withhold personally identifiable information such as an individual's name, home address, e-mail address, phone number, age, and Social Security Number. This privacy protection is applied to BLM employees as well as members of the public. A general exception to this protection is the names of higher-level BLM supervisors or managers as well as individuals that are clearly associated with a corporation or other similar business entity.

Exemption 6 requires an agency to balance the public's right to disclosure against an individual's right to privacy. The public interest to be considered is limited to the kind of public interest for which Congress enacted the FOIA. This core purpose of the FOIA is to "shed light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties." BLM concluded that the release of any personally identifiable information within these records will not shed any light on BLM's performance of its duties and there would be no public interest served in disclosure. It was determined that the personal interest of the individuals outweighs the public interest and redactions were made to remove all personally identifiable information from the scanned copies.

If you have any questions, please contact the BLM, Arizona State Office, via e-mail at [AZ\\_FOIA@blm.gov](mailto:AZ_FOIA@blm.gov).